## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request that the recently filed Amendment After Final not be entered. Applicants request that this Submission and associated Request for Continued Examination be entered. The claims have been amended as set forth above. No new matter has been added. Applicants assert that the claims are allowable over the cited reference.

### I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(b)

Claims 1, 6-10, 15-19, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,557,722 issued to DeRose et al. (hereinafter "DeRose") in view of U.S. Publication No 2003/0163784 published to Daniel (hereinafter "Daniel"). Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over DeRose in view of Daniel and further in view of Ayers, L., "AbiWord's Potential," Linux Gazette, Issue 43, July 1999 (hereinafter "Ayers"), downloaded by the examiner on December 20, 2005, from: www.linuxgazette.com/issue43/ayers.html, downloaded pages 1-4. Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over DeRose in view of Daniel and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,119,136 issued to Takata ("Takata"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. Independent claim 1 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

> a first component that is arranged to edit an electronic document having editable objects;
>
> a second component that is arranged to:
>
> > define ***a global protection element*** for the electronic document, wherein the global protection element ***defines document-wide user permission for the editable objects of the electronic document***, and
> >
> > ***set an override to override the global protection element, wherein setting the override includes defining a first location for the start of an editable object region for which a level of editing permission for a specific user is associated and defining a second location for the end of the editable object region for which a level of editing permission for a specific user is associated***;

a third component that is arranged to associate a user identifier for the specific user with the object region that is defined by the first and second locations, wherein the user identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier;

a fourth component that is arranged to:

***encode the global protection element into the ML format, wherein the global protection element includes an edit attribute that indicates a document-wide user permission for the editable objects, and***

***encode the override into the ML format, wherein the override includes a start permission tag for at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes an end permission tag for the at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes a specific user identifier that causes an override of the global protection element for the at least one editable object for the specific user in accordance with the level of editing permission of the override while other editable objects of the electronic document are enforced according to the global protection element; and***

a fifth component that is arranged to output an ML file according to the ML format.

Applicants assert that the above combination of features is not taught or suggested by the references. DeRose generally pertains to the rendering of electronic documents. DeRose teaches hiding or securing a document in general. As the Office Action Admits, DeRose does not teach a level of editing permission indicated by a unique identifier and where the identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier. In that DeRose does not teach this feature, DeRose cannot possible teach encoding of the feature into an ML document. Stated another way, DeRose cannot possibly teach encoding "the global protection element into the ML format, wherein the global protection element includes an edit attribute that indicates a document-wide user permission for the editable objects," and encoding "the override into the ML format, wherein the override includes a start permission tag for at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes an end permission tag for the at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes a specific user identifier that causes an override of the global protection element for the at least one editable object for the specific user in accordance with the level of editing permission of the

override while other editable objects of the electronic document are enforced according to the global protection element."

Daniel does not remedy the lack of teaching in DeRose. As cited by the Office Action, Daniel is teaching logging onto a website using a user ID and password. Daniel teaches that "[a] given author, course administrator, etc, would be identified by the central network (with which the authoring tool is communicating) according to his or her user ID and password pair information being stored in the database system, thereby identifying, and defining the appropriate rights and permission for, valid users.) *Daniel* at para. [0093]. Daniel does not teach encoding "the global protection element into the ML format, wherein the global protection element includes an edit attribute that indicates a document-wide user permission for the editable objects," and encoding "the override into the ML format, wherein the override includes a start permission tag for at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes an end permission tag for the at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes a specific user identifier that causes an override of the global protection element for the at least one editable object for the specific user in accordance with the level of editing permission of the override while other editable objects of the electronic document are enforced according to the global protection element." Daniel teaches logging onto a secured website. Accordingly, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 10 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

> editing an electronic document having editable objects;
>
> defining a ***global protection element*** for the electronic document, wherein the global protection element ***defines document-wide user permission for the editable objects of the electronic document***;
>
> ***setting an override to override the global protection element, wherein setting the override includes defining a first location for the start of an editable object region for which a level of editing permission for a specific user is associated and defining a second location for the end of the editable object region for which a level of editing permission for a specific user is associated***;
>
> associating a user identifier for the specific user with the ~~text~~ editable object region that is defined by the first and second locations, wherein the user identifier

indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier; and

encoding the electronic document into an ML format, wherein encoding the electronic document into the ML format includes:

***encoding the global protection element into the ML format, wherein the global protection element includes an edit attribute that indicates a document-wide user permission for the editable objects, wherein the encoded global protection element includes an enforcement attribute that indicates whether the edit attribute is actuated, wherein the encoded global protection element includes a password attribute that indicates whether the electronic document is password protected;***

***encoding the override into the ML format, wherein the override includes a start permission tag for at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes an end permission tag for the at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes a specific user identifier that causes an override of the global protection element for the at least one editable object for the specific user in accordance with the level of editing permission of the override while other editable objects of the electronic document are enforced according to the global protection element.***

Applicants assert that the above combination of features is not taught or suggested by the references. Neither reference teaches or otherwise suggests "encoding the global protection element into the ML format, wherein the global protection element includes an edit attribute that indicates a document-wide user permission for the editable objects, wherein the encoded global protection element includes an enforcement attribute that indicates whether the edit attribute is actuated, wherein the encoded global protection element includes a password attribute that indicates whether the electronic document is password protected," and "encoding the override into the ML format, wherein the override includes a start permission tag for at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes an end permission tag for the at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes a specific user identifier that causes an override of the global protection element for the at least one editable object for the specific user in accordance with the level of editing permission of the override while other editable objects of the electronic document are enforced according to the global protection element." Accordingly, claim 10 is in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 19 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

an electronic document file that comprises editable objects;

an editor that is arranged to:

define a ***global protection element*** for the electronic document, , and

***set an override to override the global protection element, wherein setting the override includes defining a first location for the start of an editable object region for which a level of editing permission for a specific user is associated and defining a second location for the end of the editable object region for which a level of editing permission for a specific user is associated***;

***an encoder that is configured to:***

***encode the global protection element into the ML format, and***

***encode the override into the ML format, wherein the override includes a start permission tag for at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes an end permission tag for the at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes a specific user identifier that causes an override of the global protection element for the at least one editable object for the specific user in accordance with the level of editing permission of the override***.

Applicants assert that the above combination of features is not taught or suggested by the references. Neither reference teaches or otherwise suggests encoding "the global protection element into the ML format," and encoding "the override into the ML format, wherein the override includes a start permission tag for at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes an end permission tag for the at least one editable object of the electronic document, wherein the override includes a specific user identifier that causes an override of the global protection element for the at least one editable object for the specific user in accordance with the level of editing permission of the override." Accordingly, claim 19 is in condition for allowance.

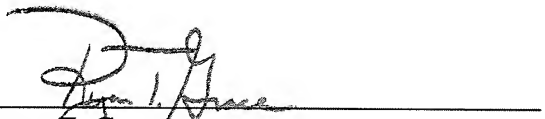
With regard to the dependent claims, the dependent claims include subject matter that is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Also, those claims ultimately depend from the independent claims above. As such, they should be found allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above.

## II. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



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